

# Mouth of the River

Issue 3

Mouth of the River is a publication of the ORHS Journalism class

December 22, 1994

## Survey Results Delayed Until Early January

by Mike Beland

Results of the survey on "School Climate" will not be released to the student body until after the holiday. The faculty heard reports on Wednesday, Dec. 14 from Mandy Tolson, Ben Hardy and Amy Howell who represented the committee that drafted the survey.

Several ideas were mentioned about how to make the school's atmosphere more positive and varied for students, but the speakers said that a formal recommendation from the committee would require a little more time. The survey results were shared with the teachers except for written comments which are still being examined and compiled for a more extensive report to be made to the whole school in early January.

Two students representing Mr.

Gasowski's Debate and Persuasion class proposed the assembly for Wednesday, Dec. 21 to make proposals for fund-raising and student involvement in replacing the wooden sign destroyed recently. The faculty endorsed the proposal for the assembly which included participation from the Music Department.

The Climate Committee first met on Nov. 21 as a result of a vote in the November faculty meeting to do a thorough investigation into the social tensions in the building and what were possible causes.

Conflicts in school and off school grounds, clashes among social groups, and a generally heightened tension have been the subjects of widespread discussion among students since September.

Ms. Brown recently conducted two meetings about this issue. The first

was for parents on Dec. 5. She said that the reasons why parents were invited was "it is a parent issue." On Monday, Dec. 12 students who are involved in tensions between two groups or are friends of those involved were asked to come in to talk about the causes of the problem and how tensions could be eased. Ms. Brown reported to the faculty on Dec. 14 that the meeting was "very positive" and that the students who attended wanted to be left alone to resolve problems on their own.

Ms. Brown, along with the local police, has been involved with stopping the fights off school grounds which involved OR students. When asked if she had that type of jurisdiction she said, "I think my authority can be extended, and this issue impacts everyday life."

She stated that a way to resolve this is by having assemblies which are

entertaining yet teach tolerance. According to Ms. Brown the tensions are being stirred up by a small group of people.

Keeping this in mind, students and faculty were asked if they felt fighting was affecting them personally.

Sophomore Kate Plimpton said, "No, but I feel badly [about the bad publicity] because OR is a sheltered school compared to the inner-city stuff."

It did affect sophomore Dan McClain who said, "I think that it affects everyone indirectly or directly because you want to be on one side of the fight or the other."

Mr. Mroz stated "If we have no peace at OR, we can't have world peace."

Senior Jessie Forbes summed up her feelings by saying, "I am glad that I am graduating."

## "Stage Door" Boasts Largest Cast in 3 Years

by Christian Mendelsohn

"The Stage Door," revealed itself on December 8-10, to a lunchroom full of proud parents and friends. Though delayed for three weeks, the production came out, according to director Karen Humphrey, "exceptionally well, considering the circumstances."

For the three weeks that were supposed to be used by "The Stage Door," the senior directed plays were occurring, which included members that were also to act in the fall play. For the three weeks after that, chemistry magic shows were being preformed which also occupied space that was needed by "The Stage Door."

The fall play is one of three major drama events of the year. Aside from the fall play is the senior drama festival in March and the spring musical in April or May. For many years the fall play has been given the weekend before

Thanksgiving. Needing more time to be prepared for the performances, opening night was postponed to December 8, 1994.

Margaret Boucher, a new drama coach at Oyster River as of last September, and senior Karen Humphrey directed and rehearsed the cast of 37 members, a size that welcomes confusion. "A cast of over thirty is hard to communicate with," says Humphrey.

Due to the new director, the large cast, and the pressure of putting on the play as soon as possible, one cast member withdrew from the play, "I wasn't having any fun, even though I was told I would," explained Greg Friel. Friel's role was taken over by senior Chris Davis.

The play was a success and didn't lose any money from the Drama Department's budget.

"It went great. I'm super proud of everybody; they were all great. They're the best," says Mrs. Boucher.



Cast members gather for fairwell scene in "The Stage Door"

## Morning Announcements To Go Modern?

by Brett Pisinski

You have probably noticed that a video screen has been set up in the hallway near the gymnasium, and that there is usually a big group of people standing there.

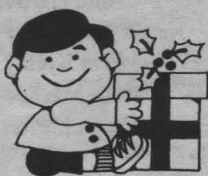
The class behind this project is Video Production, taught by Mr. Gasowski. The people involved in that class have been setting up short videos informing the school about upcoming social events, news, and other topics pertaining to school life. A section of the video air time has been devoted to abstract video art-

work and short film strips. A lot of the work is done during class time and is then run through one of the Macintosh computers onto the video screen.

The video screen in the hallway is a recent addition to the project. Originally, the video clips were all shown on a television screen, but with the new computer monitor that is being used now a sharper picture and contrast is obtained.

Sometime in the near future, Mr. Gasowski hopes to have one of these video screens available in every homeroom. This way, when it is time to

*Video cont. on p.6*



Wishes for a Safe & Happy Holiday from the staff of M.O.R.

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### Ponderment of the Issue

"All violent feelings...produce in us a falseness in all our impressions of external things, which I would generally characterize as the 'Pathetic Fallacy'"

--Ruskin



# Questions Over Independent Studies

by Kim Carpenter

What is an independent study? According to Ms. Winterbottom, it is doing something that you enjoy and earning credit toward graduation for it. The independent study program is now in its twelfth year at ORHS. The grading system for independent studies is on a pass/fail basis and has been questioned by some students and faculty. Currently with the pass/fail system, students earn 1/2 credit for 90 hours of work and one full credit for 180 hours of work.

While Ms. Winterbottom didn't create the grading system, she supports it because she feels it's too hard to distinguish an A, B, C, D, or F. An example is of one student's independent study in which she sews her own dresses and sells them to local businesses. Ms. Winterbottom considers this independent study too difficult to grade by letters be-

cause she questions how one can determine an 'A' dress over a 'D' dress. "If there is a lot of ambiguity; some [independent studies] are very measurable in quantitative ways, but for others it's very hard to measure success other than in general terms," said Ms. Winterbottom.

Mr. Tappan said that he prefers the letter grading system because it "seems to raise the values in the eyes of the students and colleges." He added that he would like to eventually see a grading system where the teacher writes a letter evaluating the students instead of just a letter on a report card.

Senior Alec Wood, who's doing a independent study on high end computer use, says "[The pass/fail grading system] makes it seem less valuable than a ordinary class." He thinks an independent study is more important than an ordinary class. He is also upset that it is not figured in to his GPA. Alec feels penalized because "[An independent study] allows a student to focus deeply on something rather than being dragged along at the same speed as the rest of the class."

Julie Wourgiotis, editor-in-chief of the "Mouth of the River," said that while she enjoys her independent study in journalism, she would prefer a letter grade for her efforts and thinks the other editors would agree. "I feel like I put more effort into this class than I do my others and yet it doesn't help my GPA at all. I'm also frustrated by the fact that I'm only getting half of a credit for a year-long effort, simply because the majority of my hours are put in after school and don't count towards the 180 hours."

Some of the subjects for this year's nineteen independent studies are Music Theory, Photography, Art, and Early Childhood Development. An independent study doesn't count as one of the five mandatory classes for juniors and seniors, or of the six mandatory classes for freshmen and sophomores. The result of this rule is that it may appear that someone is taking less classes than they really are.



## Golf Team to Tee off at OR

by Nate Hardy

Once again the topic of new sports such as lacrosse was brought to the school board and once again it was denied. Golf, on the other hand, after the third year of being proposed to the school board was finally accepted.

Mr. Nichols has been working with the school board for many years to try to get lacrosse to become a sport at Oyster River. Every year he has been turned down because of budget problems. Having knowledge of the budget problem, Mr. Nichols tried a new approach by making the kids supply their own equipment. That idea came to an abrupt halt based on many reasons, one being only the more fortunate kids with money would be able to supply the equipment.

Mrs. Gooze, a current member of the board commented on the budget saying that with all the sports and extracurricular activities, there will always be other departments fighting for more money.

Despite this problem Mr. Nichols was able to bring golf into the sports program because of the low cost of golf.

There are many people who are very enthusiastic about the new sport. Greg Friel commented, "I think that we have a lot of talented golfers in this school and we will be very competitive with other schools that

*Golf cont. on p.6*

## ORHS Senate: Constitution & Committees In The Works

by Erin Kelley & Cozette Carroll

This year's student senate is a group of 28 students who, according to Ted Olsen, moderator of the senate, want to be the central organizing government body."

Currently, the senate has been drafting a constitution that will unify the students, faculty, and administration.

This constitution will consist of guidelines of how the government will function and how it will achieve a voice for all students.

The goals of this year's senate is to extend homerooms so there will be time for students to discuss issues and sponsor guest speakers on a variety of subjects. Other goals include hosting assemblies where students can share their opinions and setting up a bulletin board that will inform students on issues the senate is dealing with.

Within the senate there have been four committees formed which are the research, public relations, drafting, and proposal committees. The responsibilities of these committees are as follows:

The research committee its schools and researches student governments in other schools.

-The public relations committee will inform the school and community about issues.

-The drafting committee will be constructing the constitution.

-The proposal committee will be taking the constitution draft to the students, faculty and school board in order to get it approved.

## Advisories to Take Effect in September

by Ben Hamby

Beginning in September a major change regarding student-teacher relations and the H.R. schedule is likely to take place. The Emotional and Social Development Committee of the Advisory Council has proposed an alternative to homerooms: advisory groups. The groups would consist of one faculty member and 10-12 students. They would provide students with someone they can rely on for advice dealing with academic as well as social issues, something which is lacking in the present day homerooms.

A focal point of discussion regarding the Advisory Groups has been the frequency and length of each meeting. The current class schedule would have to be rearranged accordingly. Two proposed ideas have been: 35 to 40 minute meetings once or twice a week, or a meeting every day lasting 15-20 minutes.

In order to help with a decision, dozens of schools throughout New Hampshire which presently have Advisory Groups, have been written and asked to send back information regarding the programs. The committee of Emotional and Social Development hopes the information obtained from this state-wide survey of

*"Trying to come up with a compromise which the faculty is willing to put up with and the students willing to accept is a difficult process."*

*--Tammy MacLean*

schools will help aid the logistical problems the committee is running into. As student representative of the committee, Tammy MacLean says, "trying to come up with a compromise which the faculty is willing to put up with and the students willing to accept is a difficult process." Four schools have

been chosen by the committee based on the apparent success of their Advisory Groups. These schools will be visited and their programs critiqued by two or members of the committee. The proposed advisory groups at Oyster River will be a combination of the results of those visits and specific goals and interests the committee hopes to obtain.

One surprising aspect of the Advisory Group proposal is the emphasis which has been placed on teachers and students relating on something other than purely academic level. Members of the Committee believe that students are not receiving the attention and consolation they need and deserve when it comes to issues outside of the classroom. The Co-Chairperson of the Advisory Council, Emma Rous, and other members of the Emotional and Social Development Committee believe these small groups would spark a sense of trust and mutual interest concerning the personal growth between faculty and students.

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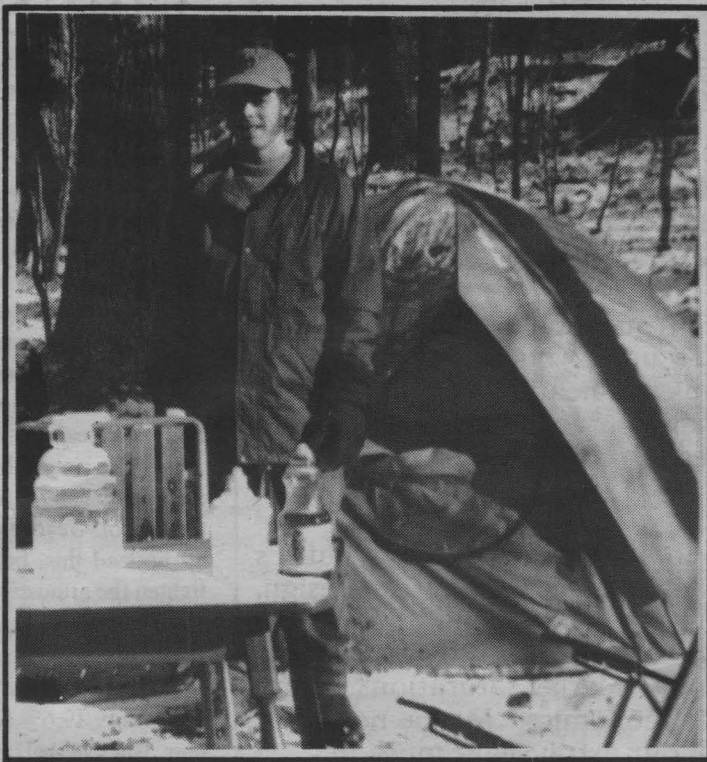
# Profile Dave Diller Experiences Life in the Wilderness

by Hannibal Handy-Goodloe

For months now David Diller a senior here at ORHS, has been living in the woods on his own. He lives in two tents, one for him and another for his supplies. "People can live off of much less than the majority of people have" Diller comments.

Diller says that he liked the freedom of being able to do what he wants when he wants to do it. Living in a tent is also much less expensive than renting an apartment. A couple of reasons why Dave lives on his own is so he doesn't have to move back and forth between divorced parents and its hard to live by his parents standards.

It takes about five minutes to get to Diller's campsite through the windy trails. He has three chairs a table two tents and a fire pit. He says that the reason he doesn't get cold at night is because he has a



Senior Dave Diller at his residential campsite in Durham.

good sleeping bag and a couple of blankets that keep him warm.

He has a gas lantern that provides plenty of light and a gas cooking stove for preparing food. He says that he has used two gallons of Coleman white gas so far. Dave says that he just goes into Durham to buy food and do his laundry.

Right now Dave is not employed. He just does work for his mother every now and then, sometimes house-sitting for her. As of now he is just living off of his bank account but he only has to pay for food and skiing if he goes.

Once in a while Dave uses the fire pit but he only does that when he invites friends over. Right now his only transportation is a bike but he usually hitches to school. For Christmas Dave hopes to get a car from his mother. This will make it easier to go skiing and rock climbing for which he needs transporta-

tion. Dave goes rock climbing about once a week and hopes to go skiing and winter camping a few times this winter.

He still sees his parents and goes to their homes for dinner every two three weeks. His parents were nice enough to give him some money to start out with when he moved out.

Diller thinks that "Our society is extremely materialistic and consumer oriented" and he would like to see that changed. Diller is satisfied with the equipment that he has to live on. Diller comments "I'm not saying everybody should move into tents, but they should be more selective about the products that they buy"



## Outdoor Club Comes to a Halt

by Mike Markee

As of now, the outdoor club is at a halt unless the school board and the students can come to an agreement about transportation issues.

The Outdoor Club started in November when two students approached Lou Mroz with the idea. About a week later a dozen and a half students attended the first meeting.

Some of the activities that were mentioned were skiing, hiking, back packing, rock climbing, canoeing, and sky diving.

The club was very excited to be doing activities outdoors, but when they were informed they were not able to drive their own cars to the activities, the students were disappointed to hear they would have to rely on a bus for transportation.

The students agreed on a trip to Mt. Washington. When they found the bus would cost \$220 the students decided unless 22 people went, the cost of the bus would not be worth the trip.

## Will Senior Budget Cover Costs?

by Sarah Varney

Since the beginning of the school year, the senior class has been experiencing some unfortunate financial difficulties.

the senior class officers have been wracking their brains to come up with fund-raising ideas and raise enough money to sponsor the senior banquet held at the end of the year. According to both the senior class President, Abby Smith and Treasurer, Meg Frazer, the budget should have begun at roughly \$1000.

In order to raise the money that they are presently lacking, the officers have planned fund-

raisers such as a bakesale, a dance and a carwash. Upcoming fund-raisers include selling roses in February and Donkeyball, which is not yet definite, which should

bring in a healthy sum of money. When asked if Senior Follies was going to be at all affected by a low budget, Smith responded confidently, "No. We didn't have to pay for the senior color photos in the yearbook, so that was a huge expense that was taken off our shoulders."

So what is the key to getting the senior class out of it's financial "hole?" "Class participation," stated Meg Frazer, "We can't do it all by ourselves." Abby Smith agreed, "We need more motivation and effort. We're not slaves, we're representatives."



Senior Roger Lamarque experiences the gift of giving in spirit of the holiday season.

## Senior Projects:

# The Labors of Love

by Jessica Tucker-Mohl

How does researching the gods and goddesses of flute music and mischief sound? Or designing and sewing dresses to sell to local businesses? Or perhaps learning how to give shows in the planetarium? To Jessie Forbes, Bevin Clare, Ted Olsen, and six other seniors, these projects sound like fun.

Senior projects are part of Oyster River's school restructuring. Ms. Morgan, the chairperson of the Senior Project committee, sees the projects as "a synthesis of high school experiences" and as "interdisciplinary." According to Ms. Morgan, eventually every senior might be required to do a project, which she hopes would reveal what they've learned at

the high school. This is only the second year of the projects (there were only two last year), so the program is still in its evolutionary stages.

Jessie Forbes' project was inspired by something she saw in a store in Portsmouth. She noticed that gods of flute music are sometimes associated with mischief in many cultures. She is researching the relationship between the two and, as a flute player for 10 years, is making a tape of pieces from different time periods.

Bevin Clare constructed and sold dresses at concerts this summer. They sold so well that local businesses wanted them and it became almost a full time job for her. She decided to make designing and selling the dresses her project, as well as experi-

menting with the possibility of creating her own small business.

The planetarium at the high school has recently been renovated and Ted Olsen has been learning about and preparing for public shows. Astronomy had been a hobby when he was younger, but taking astronomy with Mr. Knight rekindled Ted's interest.

Every student has at least one mentor, a teacher or other adult who has expertise in the field and can act as an advisor.

Bevin Clare supported the idea of all seniors doing a project, because it can "motivate you to do something that you had wanted to do anyway." "It could work here," said Ted Olsen, but he thinks it would also be difficult to keep track of.

Jessie and Bevin, who would

"definitely do this without the credit," are typical of the seniors doing projects, according to Ms. Morgan. "Most people are doing it because it's something they want to do," and not for the credit," she said.

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## Op / Ed

**Editorial: How Many Times Have You Been Mugged?**

It's happened to all of us at least once in our high school careers. There you are, minding your own business while trying to gather your books. You find your locker, and open it! Slowly you reach up to the farthest reaches of locker land, when you notice that something is amiss...

A strange odor, or a change in wind currents? You catch an object that you only notice in the corner of your eye. Suddenly it's upon you, and it's all over! YOU'VE BEEN MUGGED! Yes, it does happen to all of us. We hear that pleading voice of someone you know, only speaking to you now so that your generosity may be used and then tossed away like old salad. Then the big question comes up, and you find it hard to resist.

"Do you wanna buy a mug?"

Yes, the mug! The largest business enterprise in all of ORHS history. But it's not just mugs. Travel mugs, mugs, mugs again, a new mug, mugs with a fresh design, the new and improved mug, the glow-in-the-dark mug, the edible mug, the all-purpose mug, the one-purpose mug, the no-purpose mug, and so on and so forth. Come on now, how many times can you expect us to buy a mug? Market saturation? Didn't your teacher expose you to that important concept of economics? Maybe next year you guys could sell new cupboards for us to put all of our extravagant mugs in.

Anyway, besides the fact that the mug bit is a wee bit redundant, let's get on to topic number 2: The hordes of people who ask you to buy their mugs. I would think that after the 60,000th person asked me to buy a mug for the third time, that they would just kind of lay off, and go to sleep or something. But little do we of the anti-mug know! Repetition is the key to success in advertising? Is that it? They just come back again, and again, and again, and again, until you either buy a mug, or end up on trial for murder.

People have tried a multitude of defenses. Judo, a theateringly waved spork, a brandished ruler, or the "NO I Don't Want A Mug" chest insignia. Nothing can stop the economics spurred maelstrom of mug pushing.

It is the holiday season, and we all have that special uncle from the Midwest.

May we suggest...?

Commentary:

**Vandalism in Full Season at ORHS**

by Alec Wood

Vandalism is a growing problem at Oyster River High School. There seems to be widespread feeling in the halls these days that "since I don't have to clean it up or pay for it, who cares if I wreck it?" I see this over and over again all over the school. People rip handles off windows, destroy lockers, break everything they can get near, and steal anything that isn't nailed down.

The rise of this attitude seems to coincide with an increase in gang activity and general bad attitude around the school. Teachers, students, and administration have all noticed this, but there has been relatively little to lighten the atmosphere.

In fact, a recent survey of students in each grade at the high school reveals that most students (51.2%) agree that there is a vandalism problem at Oyster River while only 19.6% feel that there is no vandalism problem. But over half of the school (53.7%) isn't sure if the administration is doing anything to solve the vandalism problem, myself included. It seems that most people agree that there is a problem, but either no one has any working solutions or the administration isn't doing enough.

Worse yet, 41.5% of the school were not surprised by the recent destruction of the school sign. Students are becoming jaded to occurrences of vandalism and violence because they are so common. This sends an unfortunate message to students — that disrespect is to be expected.

I myself am a victim of vandalism at the school. One morning, towards the end of last year, I came to my

*Vandalism cont. on p.6*

**Letter to the Editor**

Dear Mouth of the River,

I was saddened by the theme and tone of Ms. Varney's commentary in the November issue of the Mouth of the River, where she treated with humor the subject of the harassment of Freshman by Seniors at ORHS. I do not believe her point of view reflects the feelings of the majority of students who are hoping to create a more posi-

tive climate at our school. I am concerned that the attitude of someone who may represent the views of a small but powerful minority should go unchallenged. But I am grateful to Ms. Varney for the opportunity to express appreciation to the students, faculty, parents, and administrators who have committed their time and effort to help make ORHS a place where students and teachers can live and work together in an atmosphere of mutual concern and respect.

I urge Ms. Varney to rethink her assertion that those

with less power in a disrespectful, dehumanizing manner is acceptable or humorous. I hope that in the future she will feel led to use her valuable literary talent and leadership opportunities to encourage, not devalue, her fellow students.

Sincerely,

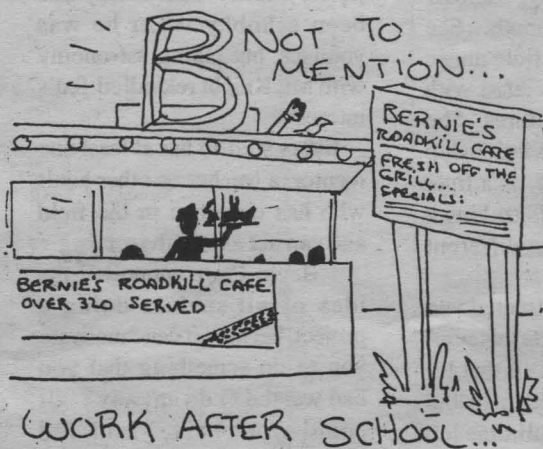
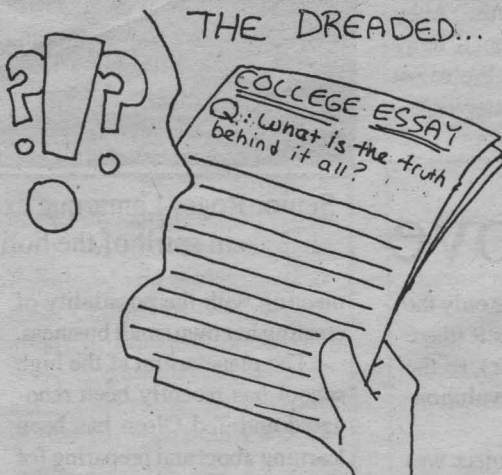
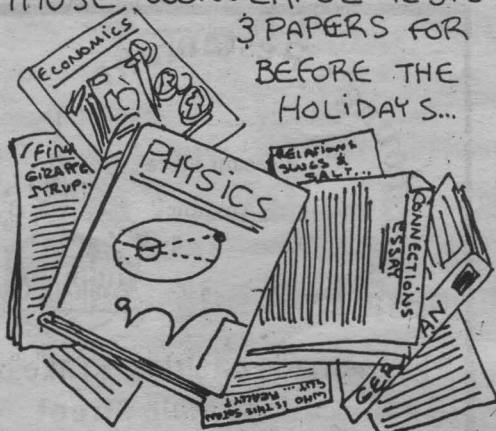
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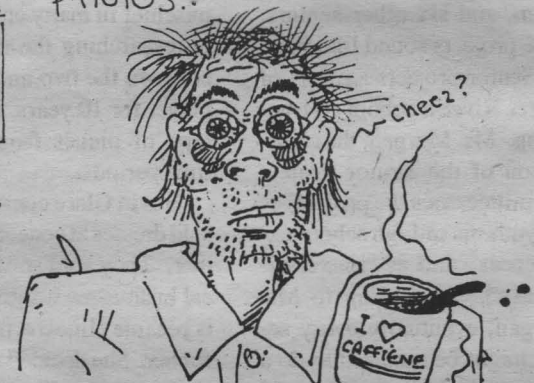
**SENIORS  
REJOICE WITH  
THE COMING OF THE  
HOLIDAYS, AND ITS  
FESTIVITIES...**

by Jarqed Tuveson

THOSE WONDERFUL TESTS  
3 PAPERS FOR  
BEFORE THE  
HOLIDAYS...



AND... SENIOR  
PHOTOS...





# \* \* HOROSCOPE \* \*

by Marie Brulotte

## Aquarius: January 21–February 19

Even though winter is dreary, your social life seems to be taking a swing in the right direction, and so are your grades. Use all of this positive energy to help some one in need this holiday season. Remember, this is YOUR month.

## Pisces: February 20–March 20

You're feeling a bit strung out lately. Set some time aside for yourself. Go sledding or hang out at Store 24 for a while. It's time for you to move up in the social scene.

## Aries: March 21–April 20

Your life has been an exercise in the art of nothingness lately, but mid-month the action will pick up; maybe a mysterious stranger will enter your life? Don't bother obsessing over grades. Your worries are in vain. Mars is not in good alignment at this time.

## Taurus: April 21–May 21

Motivate, motivate motivate Does the word stationary ring a bell? This month you need to accomplish something; help a friend in need, end world hunger, stop a fight at ORHS. Put your mind to it and you can do anything. It's time to be bullish.

## Gemini: May 22–June 21

You've been bonding with nature and daydreaming a lot lately. Come back to earth because something big is happening this month, perhaps a new job, a break up, or a new significant other.

## Cancer: June 22–July 23

Don't let winter snow you in and make you crabby. Take up a new hobby, go skiing, but don't let all of your activities distract you from your friends. Take time and be receptive.

## Leo: July 24–August 23

Learn the art of budgeting. Don't overspend while doing your Christmas shopping. Use your creativity and make some gifts. Don't be hasty with anything this month, take time and think things out.

## Virgo: August 24–September 23

Your parents have been a bit overbearing lately. Those rules are getting out of hand. Things at home should lighten up this month, but watch out! Your bad sense of direction could get you in trouble.

## Libra: September 24–October 23

Don't over-obsess about midterms because you've got a good grade coming your way. Your house may seem like a war zone lately, but try to be civil to other family members; it may pay off in the end.

## Scorpio: October 24–November 22

"And these are the days of your life." Life seems like a soap opera lately, you get a phone call from a long lost pal, and you're feeling the need to surround yourself with friends. Try throwing a party. It could take the sting out of winter.

## Sagittarius: November 23–December 21

Be prepared. This month's going to be a roller coaster ride. You'll get a really great surprise at the beginning of the month. An Aquarius friend will drive you crazy.

## Capricorn: December 22–January 20

You've been taking things way too seriously lately; relax; pet your dog. Go visit a friend you haven't seen in a while. That friend might have a positive effect on your stressful life.

## ON THE SPOT

by Carolyn Tryder

Recently the senior class has been informed that we are running a bit low on money, and Senior Follies may be in jeopardy. So we asked some seniors if they had any ideas as to what the class can do to raise money, and what they think students will get involved in, as far as fund-raisers and projects to cure the problem.

"We should try and do the senior retreat like last year's class did, so we can bond and build class unity, which may result in more class participation."

—Sarah Varney

"Rent-A-Senior doesn't cost us any money and it's a pure profit."

—Katie Crawford

"The senior class has to participate in the activities."

—Kelly DeForest

"A friend of mine said her school made a ton of money on Jello-wrestling contests."

—Mali Welch

"We could hold a coed naked car wash."

—Amanda Richmond

"Sell candy bars and stuff. In eighth grade, we made so much money because everyone did it."

—Lisa Kearney

"We should play cow patty bingo, like Somersworth does."

—Jenna Sunderland

## Need Advice? Ask M.O.R.

by Gordon Mathews & Brad Taylor

Dear M.O.R.,

I'm so confused! My goldfish has just been diagnosed with rabies. The Vet thinks I should flush her before she endangers any more lives. I know rabies is serious, but I don't think I can bring myself to flush my poor fish. What should I do?

Sink or Swim

Dear Sink or Swim,

Rabies is definitely a serious issue. You should be very careful when handling your fish. You could try to get treatment for your fish, or another option would be to get her a separate tank in which she won't be able to spread the disease. But by no means flush a fish. We believe that may be the cause of the odor problem at ORMS.

Dear M.O.R.,

Over the past month my life has seemed to take a complete turn for the worse. My grades are slipping, and I probably won't get into an Ivy League school. My parents say I'm throwing my life away. My friends are beginning to drink alcohol, and I feel uncomfortable around them. To make matters worse, my boyfriend who I've been seeing for a year and a half is talking about sex and I don't think I'm ready yet. I think that he might break up with me if I don't give in to his wishes. I just want him to love me for who I am, and not just the sex.

Please Help Me

Dear Please Help Me,

It seems as though sex is all anyone can talk about these days. I don't understand why it has to be an issue in relationships anymore than you do, but it is nonetheless. You have to toughen up, and take a stand for yourself. One bad quarter of grades will not kill you, but it might if you're trying to get into an Ivy League school, sorry about that. But you have more important things to worry about than the rest of your life. Take care of the issue with your boyfriend first. Tell him that if he has to have sex with you to save the relationship, to get the @#\$\$\* out of your life. Good luck, and keep us informed on the results.

Dear M.O.R.,

I recently got a friend in trouble. Unfortunately

on a night when I had too much to drink, I revealed a fact about a relationship he had that I shouldn't have. It could turn into a very embarrassing situation for my friend, and he could get in trouble. Before the night started, I promised that I would tell the fact on my seventh beer. I didn't think that I would actually remember to come through on my promise, but I did. I'm concerned that he might be in trouble because of my stupidity. To top it off, I think it's getting around school. I need to know how to stop it, and how to apologize to my friend.

Todd

Dear Todd,

You obviously have a problem with what is going into your mouth as well as what is coming out. People always get themselves in trouble when they spread rumors while they are in a drunken state of mind. As long as the rumor isn't blown out of proportion, and it is true, there shouldn't be a big problem. If you explain to your friend that you had no control over yourself, and that you were just a stupid drunk, he will understand—one time. Take our word for it.

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**Vandalism from p.5**

locker to get my books, and all was well. When I came back at lunch, though, the entire handle of the locker was snapped off and gone, lock and all. Since nothing was stolen, I can only assume that the motive was vandalism.

Are we part of a culture of destruction? The problem isn't limited to just Oyster River, but it sure seems like the situation here has been getting worse. If things keep going the way they are now, I wonder how long it will be before there is a total loss of respect around here...

**Girls BB from p.8**

Jen Winslow said "I think that we are a young team, but the potential is there." Krista Poole added that "our team goal is to make the playoffs." Other members of the team are Kim Jennison, Jen Lancaster, and Sarah Tanguay.

Coach Baker stated that other tough games in store for Oyster River will be Hanover, Souhegan, and Lebanon.

**Golf from p.2**

already have golf teams." Another enthusiastic person was Elliot Jenkins who said that he was psyched because he loves golf.

Come next year, Mr. Nichols will once again bring lacrosse to the school board and hopefully they will accept it.

**Video from p.1**

read the morning announcements, the teacher will just turn on the computer and it will show all the upcoming events to the students.

**Hockey cont. from pg. 7**

The Bobcats got off to a good start against Winnacunnet, with a 4-3 victory, Monday Dec. 12.

The team started off the season under new coach, Guy Smith, who advises the team, not to go looking for penalties, but he does want the team to defend themselves. Fans say that this is a change from past years mentality of "Kill or be Killed."

# NEWS BRIEFS

**London Trip Planned**

For the first year ever, Oyster River High School students will be going to London. There will be seventeen students and four adults going on this trip. The purpose of the trip is to experience the English culture, such as seeing four plays, three in London and one in Stratford-on-Avon. The students going on this trip are Mike Lewis, Laurie McDowell, Lesley Folensbee, Kim Jennison, Katie Higgins, Katherine Fernald, Noa Daskal, Karen Balestracci, Amanda Laroche, David Jackson, Chrissy Cook, Aaron Tyler, Bevin Clare, Rick Tappan, Thom Chanthakoumaue, David Acerra and Holly Brown. Mr. Tappan will be leading the trip along with three other adults.

**Five Students Do Church Outreach in Tijuana, Mexico**

This past Thanksgiving, five ORHS students had a special reason for thankfulness for their own blessings.

For five days, November 23-28, Megan Crow, Emily Bonaccorsi, Jon March, Amanda March, and Laura Harter represented their church by visiting Tijuana, Mexico. Their duty was to tour through barrios, slums of Tijuana, and tell people of the church gatherings where they would be presented with information about Christ, and the hope they could find in God.

Although Tijuana is a very poor city, Megan "found a richness there far greater than what I've seen here, a richness of friends, spirit, and love." Megan said that she will always remember that while "I praise God here in Durham, NH., my new brothers and sisters are lifting their praises to Him in Spanish," explained Megan Crow.

Twenty-two people from the seacoast area had the chance to take advantage of

this experience.

"I thought that going to Mexico was a very humbling experience. It made me realize how much I have, and how wealthy we are as a nation," commented Amanda March.

Two of the local churches represented on this trip were the Durham Evangelical Church and the Exeter Area Christian Fellowship.

**ORHS Teacher to Be Published**

Mrs. Katherine Morgan's book My ever Dear Daughter / My Own Dear Mother. The Correspondence of Julia Stone Towne and Mary Julia Towne 1868-1882 was accepted on December 13, 1994 for publication by the University of Iowa Press in Iowa City, Iowa. The book contains letters of her great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother Mary Towne, Mrs. Morgan's great-great-grandmother, was teaching in Chicago and was writing home to her mother Julia who lived in Topsfield, Massachusetts. Most of the research was done in the fall of 1992 while Mrs. Morgan was on sabbatical.

**Trip to Russia Over April Break**

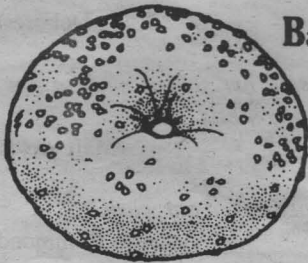
For the sixth year, Oyster River High School has an exchange group headed to Russia. This year's group will be visiting during April vacation and into the week after. Students going on this trip will earn a quarter of a credit. This year's group includes students Sean Burke, Mike Chance, Tami Churchill, Megan Crow, Andy Dolph, Ben Fitch, Bill Glazier, Chantal Grady, Val Hicks, Hilary Irons, Tara Levesque, Bianca Mobius, Joseph Parenteau, Heather Peterson, Meg Ricker, Kristy Schreiter, and Jenn Sneirson. The teachers going on this trip are Mrs. Conway and Mr. Herlihy and will be accompanied by three other adults.

## M.O.R Wishes You a Great 1995!

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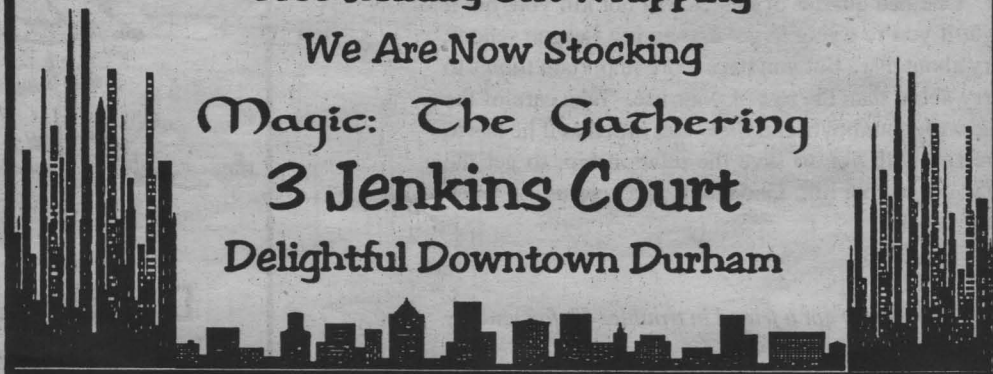
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# Swim Team: New Coach, New Excitement

by Win Puffer

The Oyster River swim team is looking to make a big impact on the New Hampshire swimming scene. The team is looking to be one of the top three teams in the states. They feel like they have a good chance and would like to have a close running with their rivals Exeter and St. Thomas.

The swim team has started to prepare for the new season in which they would like to do well. The team's ultimate goal would be to win the state tournament. Last year they placed fourth only ten points behind the third place team and that team only ten points behind the second place team. Exeter won the states last year for the eighth year in a row. The team should have a good chance this year returning most of the team with the addition of some very good freshman and some new divers. Coach Bill Reeves, would like to see everyone improve, and have a fun time, but ultimately the team to do well at the end of the season.

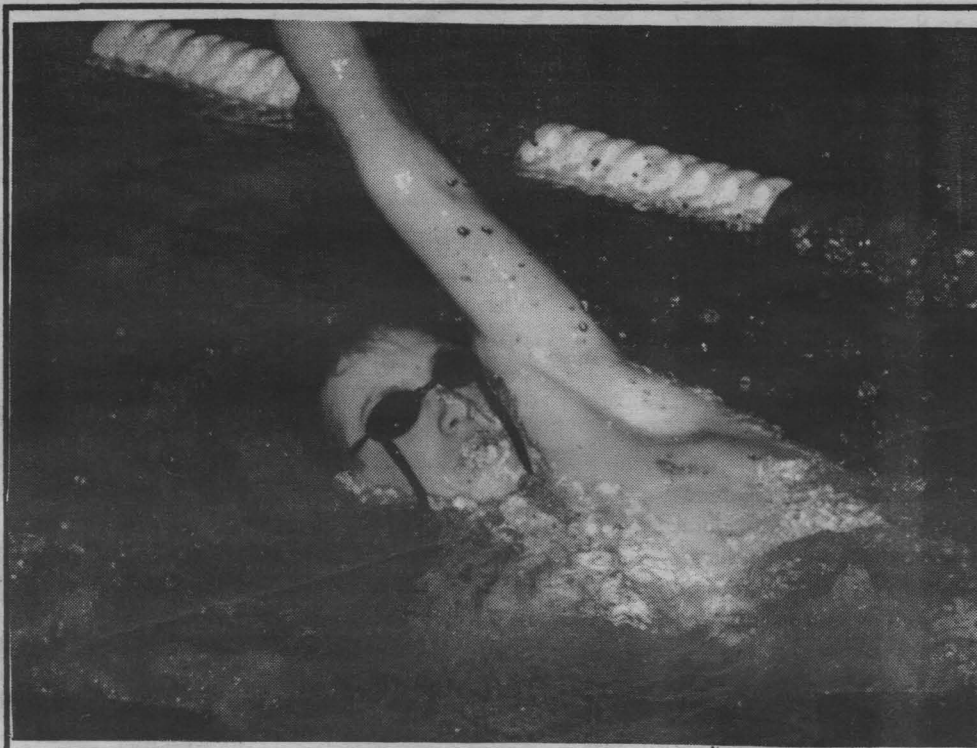
Team member Karen Humphrey commented, "I think we have an extremely strong team and we'll do very in the state

championships in February."

OR swimmers show that they are serious about the sport by practicing at 5:30 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and weight lifting on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays after school. Four also swim for Seacoast Swimming Association and have just returned from a meet in Baltimore, Maryland. Senior Gavin Kane, juniors Mike Lewis and Jessica Tucker-Mohl, and sophomore Kate Sanders were the four Oyster River swimmers for the team. The team came in second overall out of eight. "Most of our team did very well, especially those from Oyster River," said Jessica Tucker-Mohl. "I think we will be very strong for February."

"I think we have a good chance of winning the state meet," said senior Gavin Kane who swims for both OR and SSA. These swimmers along with the rest of the team should help to attain their goal of the state championships.

This year the team also has three divers



Mike Lewis practices his backstroke.

who will aid in the quest for a championship.

The team boasts a large roster this year

with eight seniors, nine juniors, five sophomores, and six freshmen for coaches Mike Parratto and Reeves to train.



Girls' volleyball team after a championship season.

## Girls' Volleyball:

### Team Members To Jr. Olympics

by Ted Olsen

And some thought the girl's volleyball team would have no leadership. Even this team, having lost three excellent starters to graduation and having no current seniors, OR's junior-led squad won the state championship in high style, finishing the season undefeated at 19-0.

"We had a lot of desire," stated junior tri-captain Amy Howell. Desire was certainly shown in their intense comeback victory over Nashua in the finals (after losing the first game). "Coach was a big factor," commented junior Sara Smith.

Their coach has certainly helped the team in their volleyball endeavours outside of Oyster River.

All but one of the Varsity team members have gone on to play in the Junior Olympic program, along with several JV members. Having been a part of a successful team with an experienced coach, sophomore Meegan Smith stated, "I can push harder and be more intense."

Players from Oyster River tryout for one of two teams, the Mass Patriots or the New Hampshire team. They practice twice a week and play in tournaments on the weekends. This exemplifies how dedicated the team is and how intense their desire to play volleyball is. When other athletes breath a sigh of relief at the end of their season, girls volleyball players take their performance up a notch.

## Skiers and Snowboarders Clash, Mountains Tremble

Sports Commentary

by Scott Spielman

It is finally winter and many people are psyched. Skiing is one of the most popular winter sports on the planet. Snowboarding is quickly growing, and is soon to be just as popular as skiing. With snowboarding the industry growing so fast, and this angers some skiers.

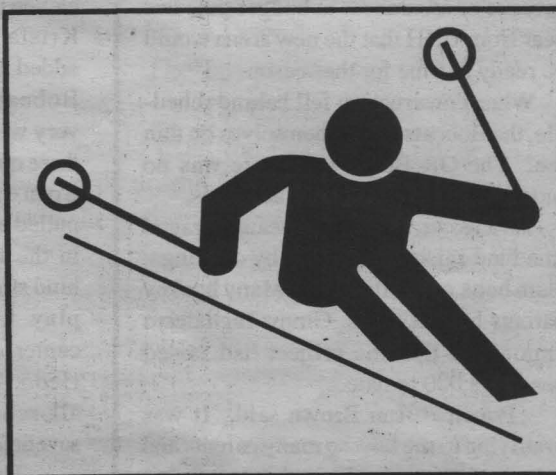
The reason for conflict is an on-going battle of attitudes between skiers and snowboarders. A poll was given to look at this problem, and to find some other general information about winter sports. Twenty-five skiers and snowboarders were polled. Out of the 25, 18 skied, 6 snowboarded, and 1 person telemarked. When asking the skiers what they thought was the biggest problem on the mountain, most of them said the snowboarders. Eight out of the 18 skiers said they thought

the snowboarders were a problem on the slopes. Some of the skiers commented that "they have attitudes," and "They should go for fun and not to show off." The other ten people felt they had no problem with snowboarders at all.

Everybody polled was asked in what direction they felt snowboarders and skiers should go for the future of the sports? One said "Snowboarders should lose the attitude" while another student suggested that they should "find a balance between the two."

Most people felt if everybody went to the mountain to have fun there be no problem.

Snowboarders and skiers need to realize that both sports are cool and just as fun. You shouldn't be judged by how you look



Everyone needs to lighten up a bit and enjoy whatever sport you choose.

Another question asked was what skiers and snowboarders thought were the most popular ski resorts. Some of the more popular resorts named were: Killington, Sunday River, Loon, and Wildcat. The average amount a person went skiing was 8 times a winter. Some students went over 20 times. Most people who ski have been skiing for 7 years. The students who snowboarded the average was about 3 years.

*M.O.R Wishes everyone a wonderful Holiday Season*

or if you ski or not but how you ride.



# Bobcat Sports

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Mouth of the River

December 22, 1994

Issue 3

## Boys' Varsity Basketball:

### All Eyes Focused on Young Team

by Jen Winslow

As the Bobcats roar into another season, boys' varsity basketball is no exception to the general feeling of optimism lingering in the air this winter. "The team has a confident outlook on the season; we're learning to work together as a team," stated Gordon Matthews, a 6'3" junior. Brad Taylor, also a junior, at 5'9", commented on the team by saying, "I have never had such high expectations for a team I've been on coming into a season, and I think all the players feel the same way."

After opening the season with a 90-63 victory over Somersworth last Tuesday, Coach Maynard expressed re-

lief, but still seems to think that there is great room for improvement. "It's nice to have the first win under our belts but it's no where near what we're capable of."

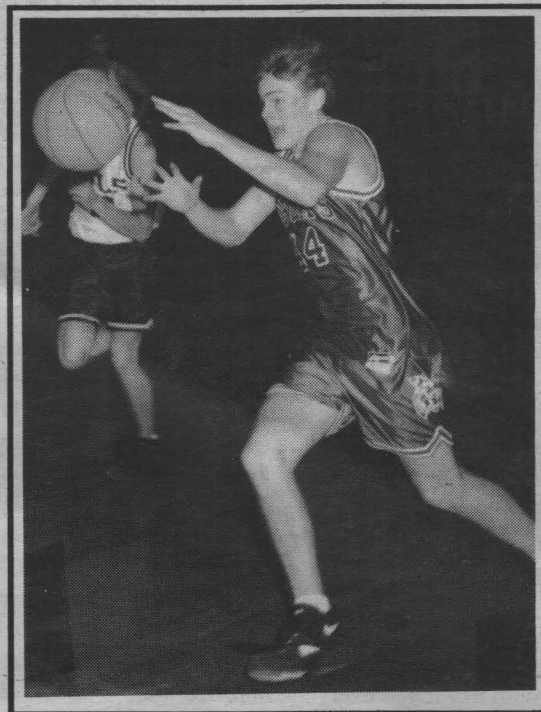
The starting lineup were guards Keith and Greg Friel, Keith Courtemanche and Gordon Matthews at forward and Dan Kowal playing center.

Greg Friel, starting guard for the Bobcats, had a game total of 27 points and he expressed the reaction of the team by saying, "We felt we didn't play as well as we could have but we are pleased with the win."

Among those who gave impressive performances were Keith Friel with four 3-pointers in the first half and a game to-

tal of 24 points. Junior Doug Pitman had an impressive 10 rebounds and a total of 11 points. Dan Kowal, also a junior, had 14 points.

As the season for the boys' team progresses, the possibility for playing in the state finals becomes more of an issue. Coach Maynard commented "I think it's a given that we want to be playing in the state finals." He thinks that if the team continues to improve and carries out the expectations that many have for the players, they will have a successful season.



Corey Stacey going in for a shot

### Cheering feels chill from Iceman

by Karen Humphrey

Oyster River never fails to have rumors. Besides the normal gossip around school, there has been a large misunderstanding about cheerleaders at OR hockey games. According to Mr. David

Nichols, there will be no cheerleaders in uniform at this year's hockey games. "The cheerleaders have been scheduled for 12 boys' basketball games (instead of 18), 4 girls' home basketball games, and 4 home hockey games. At the hockey games they will be wearing identical sweatshirts and jeans, not the normal uniforms, and cheering in the stands with

everyone else," stated Mr. Nichols. The goal is to increase school spirit in all the winter sports, not just basketball.

"A hockey rink is a sacred place; cheerleaders should not be allowed," said hockey player, Sean Moriarty although the hockey players agreed that they would like to have the cheerleaders support in in the stands.

Cheerleader, Kelly Cote, replied, "We only want to cheer at the hockey games if the hockey team wants us to. Otherwise, it's not worth it."

Mr. Nichols said the original plan was never to have the cheerleaders in uniform. The problem has been that people have not been given a reason to think they wouldn't wear their uniforms.

## Girls' Varsity Basketball

### Early Season Woes

by Greg Friel

The Bobcats lost to Stevens Friday to add to the early season woes. This defeat came on the heels of a tough game against Seacoast rival Somersworth with a loss of 52-33. The team is now 1-3.

Nicole Wojick led the team with eleven points, and Krista Poole added eight. The Bobcats played very well through three quarters, but Somersworth pulled away early in the fourth behind strong inside play from 5'9" center, Suzanne Heon. Heon led all scorers with seventeen points.

This year's Bobcat team returns with two starters, senior co-captain Meilgee Rodriguez and junior co-captain Krista Poole, from a team with a pre-

vious record of 8-10. Joining them in the starting lineup will be 5'9" junior forward - center Jen Winslow, junior guard Nicole Wojick and freshman forward Kendra Oxford. The team is coached by Cathy Baker who is in her 6th season as head coach.



Krista Poole dribbles past SHS opponent

She calls this year's team "enthusiastic."

Girls' BB Cont. Pg. 6



Brian Tagliaferro skates on the edge.

### Hockey Takes to the Ice

by Brian Cartier

The varsity hockey team lost on Saturday night, 8-2. The game was played at JFK, in Manchester, against Memorial High School. The second loss for the Bobcats. Team member, Jason Berndston says, "It was disappointing. We felt really good after the second period being down by only one. They came out and got five goals in the third, it got us down." The two members of the team that scored were Scott Frye and Brian Tagliaferro.

The first loss of the season was against Central High, with a final score of 10-1. Currently the team has a record of 1-3. The team has a good offensive line, but they need to work on defense, suggest some of the spectators to the game the first game.

Team manager Dave Acerra says, "Other schools will be stronger than us because our endurance will be down, due to the practicing situation." He continued commenting that, "The team only practices three times per week."

Hockey cont. on page 6

### Ice Time Fund-Raiser

by Josh Burt

Snively is coming down and Jackson's Landing is going up, but in between, Bobcat hockey has to pay for the roof over their heads and ice under their feet.

Athletic director David Nichols said that no money was budgeted for ice time because of assurances at budget time last year from UNH that the new arena would be ready in time for the season.

When construction fell behind schedule, the Bobcats found themselves on thin ice. The OR Board said there was no money to spare from other accounts.

As a result, the hockey team engaged in a fund-raising campaign by creating a team book and selling ads. Many hockey parents helped. Mrs. Ginny Tagliaferro announced that the project had raised nearly \$8,000 to date.

Principal Ann Brown said, "It was gratifying to see how so many parents and community people chipped in to support the program. I'm sure lots of people are watching the construction at Jackson's Landing each day."